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The History of the Jesuits in England, 1580-1773. By ETHEL-RED L. TAUNTON. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.; London: Methuen and Co. 1901. Pp. xii, 513.)

THIS work purports to trace the history of the Jesuits in England from the advent of Parsons and Campion to the suppression of the society by Clement XIV. In reality, however, it is mainly an estimate of the character, work and influence of Robert Parsons, an undertaking which claims nearly four-fifths of the entire book. From the author's point of view this division may be justifiable, since he regards Parsons not only as the greatest of the English Jesuits but also as the founder of the policy which dominated them throughout the period. Nevertheless, one regrets to see a single phase of the subject treated so exhaustively while the remainder is disposed of in mere bold outlines. Father Taunton's estimate of the aims of the society and of the means by which it sought to realize them is severe and searching. "The Jesuits as a body," he says, "stood for the Catholic Reaction, from first to last, a political expedient. The clergy, on the other hand, contented themselves with the cause of Religion." He has little confidence in the historians of their body, More, Foley, Constable, and Plowden, "to say nothing of Jouveney, Tanner, and Bartoli," and he remarks of Foley in particular, that he has "found him, at a critical point, quietly leaving out, without any signs of omission, an essential part of a document which was averse to his case." As to results: "Parsons and his followers only succeeded in achieving a brilliant failure," though "they were acute enough to snatch the credit of Campion, Southwell, Thomas Garnett, and others who did the better and more fitting work," and "were the true heroes of the Society in England." Heavy charges are brought against Parsons. He is accused of plotting against Elizabeth's crown, against the succession of James VI., of founding seminaries abroad solely in the Jesuit interest, of having spies everywhere—in England, Spain, Flanders, Italy, and possibly in France. His aim was not only to regain England for Rome but to establish the supremacy of the Jesuits: a purpose which he sought to effect not by "the patient toil and blood of missionaries" but by intrigue and the armed intervention of Spain.

The attitude toward Henry Garnett and the other Jesuits alleged to have been connected with the Gunpowder Plot is equally condemnatory. In studying the evidence on this subject Father Taunton states that he has had to find his "way through a labyrinth of falsehood and contradictions on all sides," though he has nothing but praise for Gardiner's masterly work. His conclusion is that the accused Jesuits, though not actually instigators of the plot, were "mixed up in treasonable practices" with the conspirators. Garnett himself, though merely the instrument of those above him, had been privy to a plan as early as 1601 to induce the King of Spain to send another invasion to England, he knew all the particulars of the Gunpowder Plot before July 25, 1605, and was "in no sense of the word . . . a martyr for his religion nor a martyr for the

seal of confession." Here as elsewhere the author is anxious to show that the great body of English Roman Catholics were not guilty of either privity or sympathy with the machinations of the Jesuits.

The remainder of the book calls for little comment. Except in one or two places the story from this point dwindles into a meager chronicle. Regarding the position and influence of Father Petre, evidence is cited to show that James II. was a mere tool in his hands, while the Jesuit father himself was the scape-goat of others—*i. e.*, of the General, the Provincial, and the Confessor of the society. However, one would think that a safer guide might have been chosen for the characterization of Father Petre than Macaulay. It is interesting to note that Father Taunton goes so far as to attribute the fall of the Stuarts to the influence of Parsons and the society.

Certain statements made by the writer might be questioned. For example, Gardiner has shown that James I. never knowingly signed the letter to the Pope requesting that the Scotch bishop of Vazion be made a cardinal; again one would like the authority for the assertion that the King had no intention of "carrying out" the Spanish marriage. Later Charles II. is unjustly blamed for the failure to carry out the provisions of the Treaty of Breda with regard to liberty of conscience. Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftsbury, was perhaps the "chief and leader of the anti-Catholic party," yet it is hardly true to say that it was under his auspices that the Popish Plot was formed.

The dignity of the author's style is marred by an occasional colloquialism. In general, though the work contains much information, it can scarcely be regarded as a complete and well-proportioned history of the whole subject. The index, though long and full, is lacking in one or two important points. There is an appendix containing extracts from the writings of Parsons.

ARTHUR LYON CROSS.

Russian Political Institutions. By MAXIME KOVALEVSKY. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1902. Pp. ix, 299.)

A History of Russia from the Birth of Peter the Great to Nicholas II. By W. R. MORFILL. (New York: James Pott and Co. 1901. Pp. viii, 486.)

HOWEVER much the above two works may differ in other respects, they have at least one trait in common — they are both difficult reading. For Professor Kovalevsky we must make allowances. The lectures which he delivered last year at the University of Chicago, and which are here reproduced, should be judged with the leniency due any man writing in a language not his own. It is, therefore, needless to insist on the faults of his style, even when he goes so far as to use the phrase "meddled with" when he means intermixed with; and, by a stretch of charity, it is also possible to ascribe a number of pretty loose historical statements to his incomplete mastery of English phrase. Still, no indulgence can absolve him from the charge of having overloaded his lectures with a